

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-5, 7-18 and 23-32 are pending in the present application. The applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present claims in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks.

I. Allowed Subject Matter

The applicants would like to thank Examiner Singh for allowing claims 14-18 and 25-32, and for indicating that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the recitations of the base claim and intervening claims. The applicants canceled claims 1 and 2 and have rewritten dependent claim 3 as an independent claim including the recitations of canceled claims 1 and 2. Claim 4 and 5 remain dependent on claims 3 and 4, respectively. Accordingly, the applicants submit that claims 3-5 are immediately allowable over the prior art of record.

II. Prior Art Rejections:

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Rejection of Claims 1-2, 7-13, and 23-24 in View of Sun

Claims 1-2, 7-13, and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,802,482 to Sun (hereinafter "Sun"). As discussed above, the applicants have canceled claims 1 and 2. The applicants have amended dependent claims 7-13 and 23 to depend from allowed independent claim 32. Dependent claim 24 remains dependent on claim 23. The rejection of these claims is moot in light of the amendments. The applicants submit that claims 7-13 and 23-24 are in condition for immediate allowance.

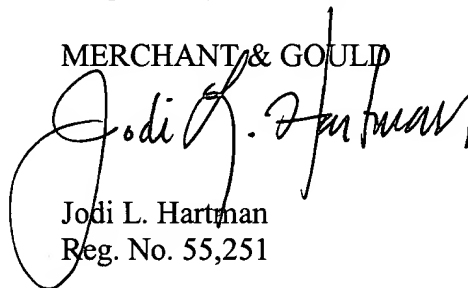
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III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application and allowance of the claims at an early date is solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this matter, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' undersigned attorney at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jodi L. Hartman", is written over the printed name and registration number.

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